



Energy Research Subsidy Pathways to the Future

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Ministerie van Economische Zaken

Pathways to the Future

A future sustainable energy economy is the objective of the Energy Research Subsidy programme. Exactly what such an energy economy will look like, will be filled in step by step. In this programme the government, the market, and social institutions work together. This brochure provides a short introduction to the background, the aims, the methods, and the possibilities for support of an extraordinary government programme.

The Energy Research Subsidy government programme is necessary because existing systems of energy production and consumption are approaching their technological limits. Achieving further efficiency improvements is in general difficult and costly. Innovations for better energy systems are needed.

The government wants to help realize an affordable, reliable and clean energy economy, while fully acknowledging the role the market ought to play in this development. The role of the ERS programme is to initiate and support the necessary innovation processes. In some cases the market itself is already moving fast. The only help that may be needed then, is with demonstrating a new technology. In other cases an idea may be in an early stage. Then the road to market introduction may be a long one and often help will be wanted. While the ERS programme can thus offer support at each of the stages of the energy innovation trajectory, it also helps the supply of knowledge to better meet the demand of the market.

Subsidy Scheme

The Energy Research Subsidy programme includes four schemes, covering the whole path from idea to market introduction:

- ERS: New Energy Research. Subsidy for private researchers, and also for researchers at institutes, universities, and companies, intended for the first stage of the innovation chain: developing new, innovative ideas. Projects must have the potential to evolve into a new energy research area or a new direction within an existing energy research area.
- ERS: Long Term. Subsidy for research into a future sustainable energy technology. Projects must reinforce the knowledge position of the Netherlands, provide the economy with a powerful and sustainable economic boost, and facilitate market introduction. This scheme is intended for knowledge institutions and industrial companies.
- ERS: Energy and Collaborative Projects. Stimulates technological collaboration aimed at the development of innovative and durable products, processes, and services (feasibility projects and, research and development projects). This subsidy is intended for all collaborative projects in the field of innovation and durability, not just for those on sustainable energy. It has a wider range than the ERS programme.
- ERS: Demonstration. Subsidy for testing new energy technologies in the environment in which they will actually be applied. This is specifically intended for industrial companies and organizations.

For each of these subsidies, innovation, sustainability, and economic prospects are key criteria in determining which requests will be granted. In all cases subsidies are awarded according to tender, which means only the best project proposals will receive subsidies.

For ERS, twenty specific research areas have been identified to which projects must pertain. These areas have been classified according to five themes:

THEMES

1. *Energy efficiency in the agricultural and manufacturing industries*
2. *Biomass*
3. *New gas/Clean fossil fuels*
4. *Built environment*
5. *Generation and Network*

More than just subsidy

Besides financial support, there are also other ways in which the ERS programme stimulates the development and application of knowledge. SenterNovem, charged with the implementation of the programme, organizes brainstorming sessions, workshops, and conferences. The goal is to bring together the suppliers, buyers, and users of knowledge. To generate new ideas and to ensure that research better meets the demands of the market. There are also five networks, each one focused specifically on one of the themes mentioned above.

International cooperation

At each of the stages of a project it may be useful to gather knowledge from abroad or to work together with a foreign research partner. It may also be interesting to engage a producer or an applier from abroad in a research project. For such initiatives support from ERS can also be obtained.

Advice

The ERS programme has a large network of relations, both inside and outside the Netherlands. They may also advise you, free of obligations, about the technical and economical feasibility of any ideas for projects. They can also give you an indication of your chances of being granted any ERS subsidies. This will help you get a clearer picture of your idea and will probably also help you avoid applying unsuccessfully for subsidy. All information you give to the ERS experts will be kept in strictest confidence.

More information

If you have any questions concerning the ERS programme, please contact us by sending an e-mail to eos@senternovem.nl or by calling +31 30 214 79 49. For more information concerning SenterNovem in general, please visit our website www.senternovem.nl/english

One Policy, More Impulses

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has developed an energy policy which focuses on an affordable, reliable, and clean energy economy. Several programmes contribute to implementing this policy. By subsidizing the development of new technologies aimed at realizing a sustainable energy economy, the Energy Research Subsidy programme helps to enhance the quality of research and knowledge in The Netherlands. Knowledge may be found at home or, if not available, abroad.

Another interesting programme in this field is Energy Transition. It sets a long term course towards a new, sustainable energy system. Energy Transition emphasizes and stimulates the commitment of both government and market, encourages their cooperation and helps taking advantage of first opportunities. Both programmes contribute substantially to the course from promising energy research to actual application. Because a sustainable energy economy demands a social transition which requires several impulses, knowledge development, and practice - both today and in the long run. ERS and Energy Transition provide these impulses.

For more information on Energy Research Subsidy, please contact SenterNovem at:

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SenterNovem boosts sustainable development and innovation by bringing together policy and practice. SenterNovem professionally implements government policy on innovation, energy and climate, and environment and spatial planning. Companies, institutions and governmental authorities can call on SenterNovem when realising social objectives in these areas, nationally and internationally. SenterNovem is an agency of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. More information: www.senternovem.nl/english

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